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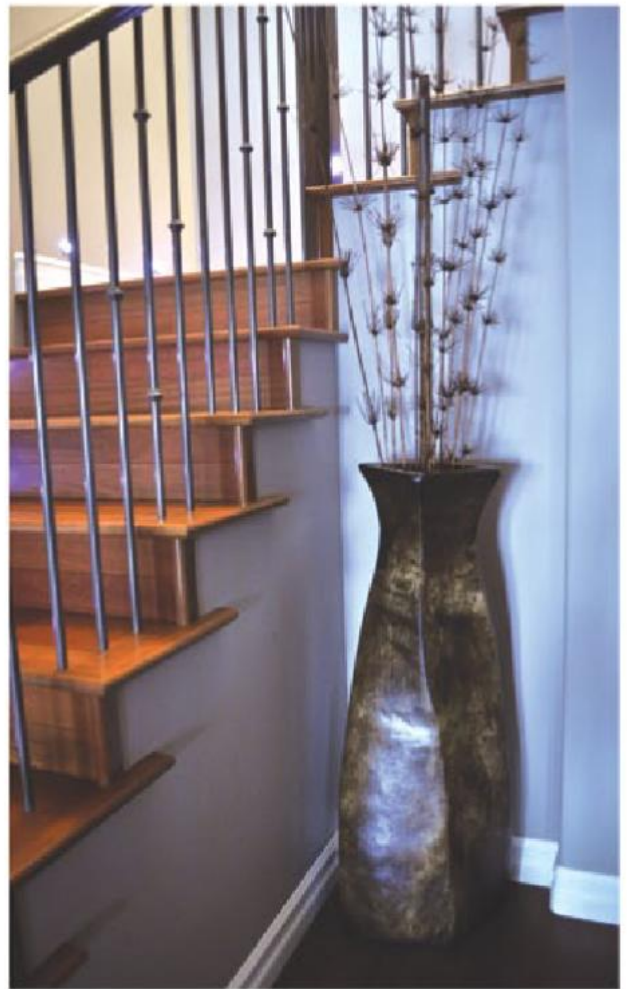
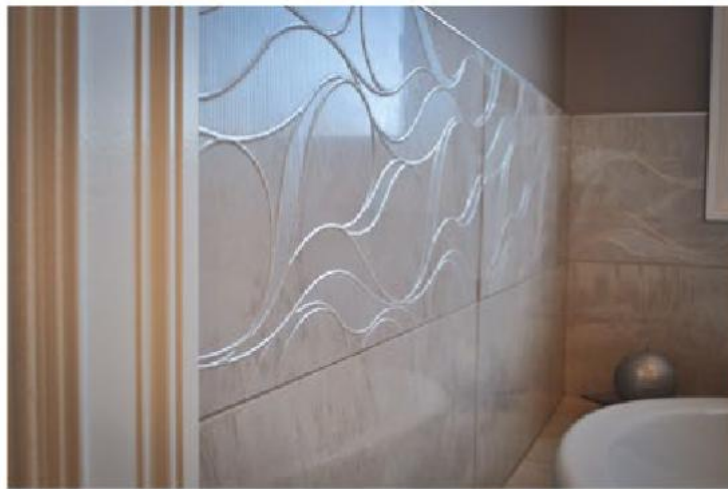
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The Traffic Bridge
27

COVER: See HOME Story: Where Sentiment meets Modern. Photo by: Pete Lawrence Photography

HOME Front



Photo: Pete Lawrence Photography

Hurrah! It's our Spring issue! Even with the mild winter, the thought of spring brings a smile to everyone in Saskatoon. What might not leave you smiling, though, is all that clutter you've amassed over the winter, or perhaps even over years and decades! With Spring comes renewed hope, and this issue of HOME will surely get you off to a fresh start.

Those of you who want to downsize will find some good tips (p. 41) – as well as suggestions for where to take the stuff you no longer want (p. 74). You might even want to try a Swap Party (p. 76). Get your kitchen organized (p. 58), then on to the bathroom (p. 48).

You'll be glad to know our enthusiastic team of writers go to the walls for readers, literally! Our story on p. 67 opens the doors to accessible, affordable original art. Art is even available to rent (p. 69).

Maybe it's not a matter of new things on your walls. Discover tricks of the trade by grouping and hanging photos and other wall displays (p. 65).

Appreciate more of the story behind the Shaw home in the second of our three-part series (p.19). This segment discusses the logic behind the home's design and layout, with an interesting perspective on planning for the long-term use of your home as your needs and capabilities change.

That same theme of transitioning your home over time is presented in our

HOME Story of a family who didn't want to forsake their older home, their family heirlooms – and a very old tree (p. 10).

And now for something completely different: It's the "all-pink house" in support of breast cancer research. When we say "pink", we mean it! (p. 55)

Thanks to all of you who write us to say they look forward to our regular features. Home Town Reflections (p. 27) takes a look at the history of the Traffic Bridge (aka Victoria Bridge, 19th Street Bridge). Our Homeowners and the Law talks about legal suites (p. 9). As for landscaping, find out how to build a backyard waterfall! (p. 34) For the front of your house, our Custom Touches feature looks at how to make your driveway unique (p.16).

I also encourage you to spend time with our advertisers. Behind their ads in this issue is their true commitment to serving our readers with outstanding advice and products. To them, and to you, have a fantastic Spring 2012!

AMANDA SOULODRE
PUBLISHER

*Got suggestions? Comments? Questions?
Want to see back issues of HOME? Visit
saskatoon-home.ca.*

HOME

SASKATOON

Issue 17, Spring 2012

ISSN 1916-2324

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Saskatoon SK S7W 0A4

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www.saskatoon-home.ca

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Saskatoon HOME is proud to present our first Reader Panel – people from Saskatoon who helped us select the stories for this issue. For every issue, our Panel will change. Interested?

We are dedicated to Saskatoon content. There are lots of great things to write about – but which subjects will most interest

our readers? To help us make that decision, we first create a list of possible topics. We then give them to our Reader Panel for their individual feedback and ranking, then compile the results to determine our final list.

You don't need any special skills to be on our Panel, and the time required is minimal.

The only qualification is your sincere opinion as a reader. Your single task will be to look at the story suggestions and rank them in order of your preference.

We are currently seeking volunteers for our Fall issue Reader Panel. Be the first to know what will be in that issue, and have the satisfaction of knowing you were part of the process! 

If you would like more information email info@saskatoon-home.ca with the subject line 'Reader Panel'.

We look forward to your interest – and your opinion!



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Homeowners and the Law



The Legal Suite Test

Answer the first two questions with YES and you don't have to read on.

1. You live in a one-unit dwelling in Saskatoon.
2. You can produce a building or occupancy permit for the secondary suite in your house.

If you answered NO to either question you've failed the Legal Suite Test according to Darryl Dawson, Manager of the Business License and Bylaw Compliance Section at the City of Saskatoon and you need to read on.

Suites in single family homes require the appropriate permits. If there are no permits and the suite was developed and

occupied prior to January 1, 1999 it may qualify for the Legalizing Existing Suite program that was developed by the City to deal with suites in existing houses.

3. You live in a duplex or side by side. Can you have a legal suite in your dwelling?

If you answered YES, continue reading. Any

residence that is not a one-unit dwelling in Saskatoon cannot have a legal suite in it. Nor can you build a suite in a detached garage or garden house, although these may be considered as future possibilities for a growing city.

4. You have a suite in your home, or you are considering buying a home with a suite in it, and you are not sure it's legal. What can you do?

- a. Either you, or your Real Estate Agent, can obtain a Property Information Disclosure (PID) document from the Building Standards Branch (cost is \$20.00).
- b. Visit the City of Saskatoon website (www.saskatoon.ca) and look under the letter L for legalizing existing suites.

- c. A and B

Darryl suggests (c) A and B. If you have any questions on passing the Legal Suite Test or obtaining PID's you can phone 975-2645 to talk to a City of Saskatoon Representative. 

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HOME Stories: Where Sentiment Meets Modern



Sandra Young



Pete Lawrence Photography

When my energetic daughter returned from her first design consultation, she was bubbling with excitement. She couldn't wait to show me the photos of all the great artifacts her new client had collected. At first glance, the pictures reflected another typical decorating job for us. However, when Miranda filled me in with the sentimental details of the job, I realized our new client was not your status quo.

Bev Digout had lived in her 1962 bungalow in the Market Mall vicinity for nearly 20 years. The previous owners had revered the oak tree in the yard. Planted from a solitary acorn that had come from their original Manitoba homestead, this tree honored their ancestors. The new owners had to sign a caveat promising to never chop down

it down. Embracing this new tradition, a Red Willow tree was planted for Bev's first son, Drew, and a Japanese Lilac for young Jake, when they first started school.

Drew and Jake are now 19 and 17, and Bev is stuck in the sandwich generation. Her mother is in a care home, and her father has passed on. Bev needed to clear out the dusty

remnants of their family home in the Battlefords, and pay homage to their colorful past. This task is difficult enough emotionally, but logistically it is even more daunting. How does one fit all of these irreplaceable heirlooms into an 1,100 square foot bungalow and still make the home feel fresh and up-to-date? 



Youthful Miranda was brimming with ideas. A design student at Lakeland College, she was anxious to apply some of her aesthetic savvy. She immediately clicked with Bev, and inspired the room with colorful fabric choices from her favorite company, Designer's Guild. These selections modernized Bev's family antique chairs with citrine, spiral prints. We chose the simple, new sofa from a Canadian supplier to quietly support the other pieces. Bev's existing ottoman was reupholstered and the height was adjusted to marry the scale between the higher sofa and the lower, antique chairs. Two of Bev's mom's old coffee tables were cleverly

converted to benches with gorgeous, banded pillows sewn by Bev, from scraps she had collected.

Bev's handiwork skills were required in the dining room. Inexpensive, ready-made draperies were elaborated with extra banding and playful trim. The family heirloom chaise was reupholstered and tucked behind the table for extra seating or cozy reading. The oak table regales many stories of the thrashing crew at harvest, or large family gatherings. All three leaves would have been brought out on these occasions, expanding the plentitude on this table that had come all the way from England. 



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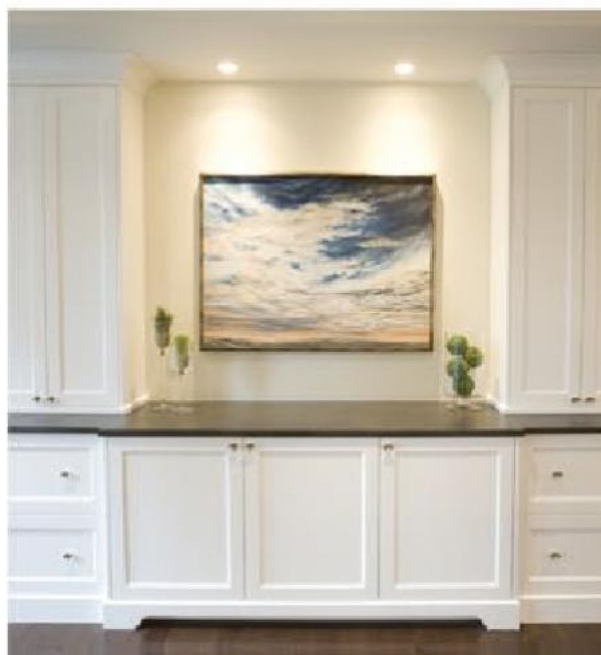
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The front entry required typical attention for a 1960s bungalow. Bev had removed the original planter divider, so a symmetrical living room arrangement visually divides the spaces. A large, fuchsia area rug expands the front entry visually, and says welcome in the most vivacious way. A collection of Uncle John's keys graces the front entry wall.

Uncle John also provided the claw foot tub inspiring the main bath. Bev cleverly left built-ins to a minimum when redesigning. This allowed for her mother's old china cabinet to house bath amenities. The fuchsia back wall silhouettes the lovely chandelier, and more revitalized draperies create the feeling of a whimsical, dramatic boudoir.

The master bedroom invokes a quiet, sophisticated mood, inspired mainly by the painting by a family friend, Renalda Kemp. The small size is embraced with white simplicity.



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Visualize a winding path of thoughtfully placed bricks that came from a

school where Bev's mom taught. Mature trees dot the yard where the play structure used to be. Inside is a thoughtfully displayed collection of memories and soulful stories, representing several generations.

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"Stamped" rubber laid over existing concrete driveway

Image courtesy of Garry Gelech, Shercom Industries Inc.



Stamped concrete driveway, special techniques used to greatly reduce slipperiness

Image courtesy of Russell Burh, Stone Temple Decorative Concrete



Exposed aggregate with ashler stone stamped borders

Image courtesy of Stonehenge Concrete and Construction

In Saskatoon, a combination of frigid winters and the limited number of back alleys has led to the necessity of garages being the focal point of many homes. Driveways are an associated evil and most homeowners accept that an easily accessible garage trumps the desire for curb appeal. As a result, wide, sprawling driveways dominate the front landscapes of many homes. However, options for driveways are increasing, and with an array of choices at price points for any budget, curb appeal no longer needs to be sacrificed on the altar of convenience.

As home lots become smaller and communities become crammed with similarly styled houses, homeowners are seeking new ways to distinguish their house from others in the neighbourhood. Since a driveway is often an essential element of the front yard anyway, it makes sense to add unique elements. Choosing to access the knowledge of experts in the concrete and paving industry can assist you in literally stamping your own style into your front landscape.

The typical driveway is constructed of non-skid

broom finished concrete and is durable but boring. Trend-setting options include stamped concrete, exposed aggregate, paving stones and even recycled rubber. These can complement, replace and sometimes cover the existing driveway, as well as be used for walking paths, retaining walls and outdoor steps.

Many driveway options are concrete-based, allowing for flexibility in creativity. Concrete does not abide by rules, so homeowners need not abide by typical landscaping rules either. Professionals consider issues

such as road base, drainage, soil type and even weather conditions when paving driveways. Just as importantly, they will do their best to ensure the finished product is aesthetically pleasing and an accurate reflection of the homeowner's unique tastes. For example, Stonehenge Concrete and Construction specializes in combining different finishes such as broomed/aggregate to offer creative options for a range of budgets. Stone Temple Decorative Concrete can hand-carve patterns into concrete retaining walls

or decorative boulders. They take beauty, traction, functionality and art seriously, and ensure potentially slippery surfaces such as stamped concrete are safe

through a unique method of texturing the surface before the product is stamped. Homeowners desiring a natural, cobblestone look might contact Saskatoon

Paving Stone, while Shercom Industries caters to homeowners seeking a 'green' method of updating their driveway by covering their cracked, pitted driveway

with rubber from recycled tires. 

RACHEL CLARE

Company	Product Highlights	Creative Options	Style Advantages	Approximate Price Range (per square foot)
Stonehenge Concrete and Construction 1418 Hughes Drive, Saskatoon, SK 306.955.2911 stonehengeconcrete.ca	Specialize in plain and colored broomed concrete, stamped concrete and exposed aggregate (made of small ½ inch rocks that create a natural, rustic look)	Can mix and match the different options, creating endless creative possibilities. Broomed or stamped overlay can be placed over existing concrete if still structurally sound.	Ability to combine options or lay over existing concrete allows creativity at multiple price points.	Broomed - \$8-10 Exposed aggregate - \$10-12 Stamped - \$12-14
Stone Temple Decorative Concrete 823 50 St E, Saskatoon, SK 306.244.5022 stonetempledecorativeconcrete.com	Hand carved and stamped concrete - many patterns, colors and textures available. Some resemble seamless shale while others can be stamped with distinctive imprints like leaves, fossils, raptor claws or paw prints. Stamped concrete steps - Concrete is cantilevered so there is a smooth rise with a slight hangover.	Stamped concrete - Customer can choose base color as well as multiple accent colors. May also choose to stain individual tiles throughout to tie in color of house or landscaping. Hand carved concrete - used on vertical retaining walls or decorative boulders. Steps - Can be adapted to any length and width and can swivel to compliment landscaping. Rope lights can be installed under each tread.	Concrete mimics stone, producing a realistic, natural look. Hand carved designs, stamp imprints and steps can be made to suit customer specifications.	Stamped concrete in front yard - \$13 (hand-carved higher cost due to labour) Steps - \$1,000 per tread.
Saskatoon Paving Stone 1513 Hiliard St. E, Saskatoon, SK 306.244.2383 saskatoonpavingstone.com	Paving Stone - A flexible product made up of thousands of small pre-cast concrete stones.	A rainbow of styles and colors available through multiple manufacturers. An assortment of installation options are possible, such as straight angled or curved lines or flowing circles.	Literally installed one stone at a time so many inventive options for design. Rather than heaving, shifting and cracking like concrete, paving stone will flex with the ground as it heaves and sinks so repairs are minimal and inexpensive. Though initial cost of material is higher than many products, long-term cost is minimal and it generally outlasts concrete.	Unable to give approximate price range due to broad selection of stone and impact of subsoil present.
Shercom Industries North Corman Industrial Park RR#4 Site 403 Saskatoon, SK 306.933.0600 or 1.888.Shercom shercomindustries.com	Rubber - Recycled product from scrap tires are laid directly over old driveway.	Color options include more than basic black. Brown, grey and terracotta are gaining popularity and can also add flecks of color to black.	Rubber is extremely durable and crack resistant. Not affected by salt and ice does not stick. Product provides a cushioning effect with good grip maintained year round. Will last for many years.	Driveways begin at \$5.50 for black and up to \$6.50 for color

Please note that price quotes are general estimates only and will change due to project requirements.

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Arnie and Linda Shaw



When designing and building their home, Arnie and Linda Shaw wanted to meet their current desires as well as have the potential to meet needs in their future. Taking into consideration some of the challenges they may face as they age allowed

them to craft a home that is complimentary to their active lifestyle but will also be compatible with a variety of potential complications associated with aging.

Sherry Bentley from Country by Design worked

with the Shaws in drafting the layout, and Corinne Kaye from Centennial assisted with the design of the home. Their biggest challenge was to design a space that served a multitude of purposes for a family that enjoyed entertaining large groups

of relatives and friends, but also desired a cozy haven from the outside world. The floor plan of all levels reveals fairly open yet functional spaces. Open concept rooms were planned with roomy entranceways, double doors whenever possible and



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wide hallways. Curved walls add softness, and nine-foot ceilings on the main and lower levels promote a spacious feeling. Unexpected uses of space include the second floor hallway, aptly called the upper gallery, as it showcases a great deal of artwork.

Possibly the most distinct aspect of the Shaw home layout is a floor plan that will allow the homeowners to live comfortably in their home for many years to come. If the spaciousness of the house begins to feel a little overwhelming in the future, all their basic needs can be met on the main level. An oversized foyer doubles as a space to showcase a sampling of the artwork from their expansive collection. The open concept family room has an attached breakfast and kitchen area. There is a formal dining area which can be accessed from the kitchen through a distinctive pantry space. With its extra dishwasher and sink as well as food preparation area, the pantry allows the Shaws to entertain large groups of friends and family with ease. The double pocket doors can be closed from either side, allowing the aftermath of a dinner party to be hidden from the view of guests.

The master suite (Owner's Suite) is located on the main level of the home and includes a luxurious ensuite. The ensuite is a place of rejuvenation and renewal with a roomy feel and well-appointed amenities including a steam shower with seat. This provides a great place to de-stress and will not need to be adapted or upgraded should

mobility concerns occur in the future. Rather than the typical basement location, the laundry is also located off the ensuite, greatly increasing accessibility and convenience.

The placement of the master suite on the main level is a unique choice that allows for ease of access in the present and the future. However, its location presented some practical concerns associated with privacy and proper lighting. It was important for the bedroom to feel private and serene, which can be difficult on the main level: windows are usually positioned in a way that allows those passing by to see in. It was also important for Arnie and Linda to have an abundance of light during the day but for it to be dark enough to allow for a solid sleep at night. To solve these dilemmas, one large window was positioned fairly high up on the wall, maintaining privacy but allowing for an abundance of natural light during the day. The window treatment is easily pulled down, quickly darkening the room when desired.

Proper lighting was not only important in the bedroom, but was also thoughtfully considered throughout the house. The Shaws desired a home infused with light to add warmth, and realized that lighting becomes more important as the years progress and eyesight worsens. There were a number of ways they ensured the house makes the most of natural and artificial light. To compensate for the lot being in close proximity to neighbours and the number of side windows being strictly regulated, large windows



were strategically placed so that each room could maximize the amount of natural light available. Artificial lighting is used throughout the home to delineate spaces, create warmth and add safety. Even the stairs leading into the lower level contain built-in lighting which will prove useful in the future as eyesight becomes less sharp.

The curved staircase leading from the main floor to the second floor allows for both natural and artificial light to stream down the stairwell into the main foyer. In addition to strategic lighting, the foyer leading into the house from the attached garage contains a number of innovative ideas. Visitors and family members entering via the driveway

have the comfort of being protected by the elements when entering the home. The double front doors are slightly recessed, allowing for a covered entry. The wide, low-rise stairs allow ease of access for those with different mobility needs, and in the future the stairs can easily be converted into a ramp if necessary.

Family members entering from the garage also have comforts that most homeowners do not enjoy. The family entry allows direct entry into the front foyer of the house from the garage. However, it also allows the option of navigating directly into the laundry where the day's clothes can be immediately laundered. 

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The homeowner can then choose to proceed into the master suite to change clothes and transition from work mode into relaxation mode.

In summary: If you would like to have a home that will transition with you through the ages but do not have the opportunity to build your home from scratch, you can still adopt some of the Shaws' innovations when planning renovations or purchasing a new home. Remember the importance of lighting, especially on staircases and in entranceways. Develop rooms that maximize space and minimize obstacles, and be creative with placement of laundry and bedrooms. Consider consulting a drafter or design team that can assist you in fashioning a home suited to your current tastes as well as your future aspirations. **H**





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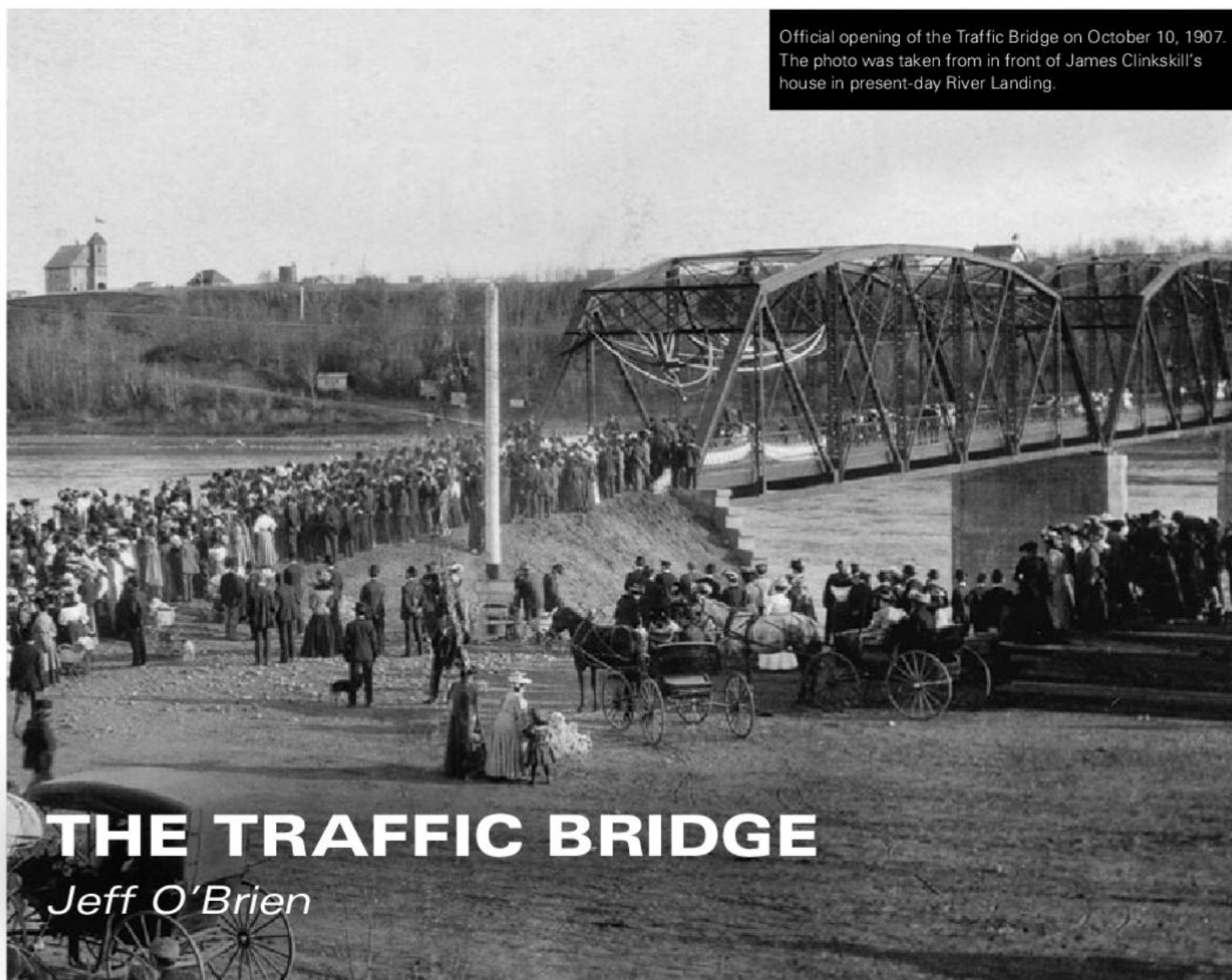


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HOME Reflections

Appreciating where you live means knowing its history. HOME Reflections is a regular feature revealing interesting facts about our city from bygone days.



Official opening of the Traffic Bridge on October 10, 1907. The photo was taken from in front of James Clinkskill's house in present-day River Landing.

THE TRAFFIC BRIDGE

Jeff O'Brien

Photo PH 89-158 courtesy of the Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library

As we in Saskatoon know very well, the problem with having a river is figuring out how to get across it. Currently, seven bridges span the South Saskatchewan here, with one more approaching completion. The oldest and most historic of these is the Traffic Bridge, the very first bridge across the South Saskatchewan built for people, not trains.

Since 1882, the question of how to get back and forth across the river has loomed large in the minds of Saskatoonians. Even the site for Saskatoon was picked because it included a good spot for a ferry crossing. The ferry, which was built in 1884, originally ran from the foot of Main Street across to Victoria Park (which likely explains why a sleepy

residential thoroughfare got to be called "Main Street").

The ferry service varied between unreliable and abysmal. The navigable season was short, and the ferry was constantly getting stuck, breaking down or sinking. Saskatoon's first drowning accident occurred in 1887, when young Neville Pendencygrasse fell off the ferry in midstream. In 1902,

the ferry slipped its cable, sending its occupants on an unscheduled trip to Clarke's Crossing, several miles downstream. Years later, the ferry operator had more lucrative employment elsewhere, making the service even more haphazard. It was pretty apparent to everyone that we needed a bridge. 🚧



Construction on the interchange at the south end of the bridge in 1960. The end was raised eight feet to accommodate the new roadway and the area that is now Rotary Park was filled in around the same time. The old CNR railway bridge can be seen in the background.

Photo LH 2004 courtesy of the Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library



Fireworks over the Traffic Bridge during Saskatoon centennial celebrations in 2006.

Photo courtesy City of Saskatoon and Darrell Noakes

In 1890, the railway came through on its way from Regina to Prince Albert, crossing the river where the Buckwold Bridge is now, and, incidentally, leading to rapid development of the hitherto unsettled north side, in what is now downtown. The bridge made pedestrian traffic a lot easier, albeit in a perilous, hopping-from-tie-to-tie-without-benefit-of-a-footbridge-or-guardrail kind of way. The ever-present prospect of meeting a train also added a certain spice to the crossing. No one was actually killed, but there were some close calls.

However, the cost of shipping goods by rail between the two communities was prohibitive, so heavy traffic still had to use the ferry, which by this time had been moved downstream to Victoria Avenue. By the 1900s, immigration to the area was picking up steam, with Saskatoon experiencing considerable growth, particularly on the downtown side. Then, as now, it was the increase in traffic that prompted the

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clamour for a new bridge; not a railway bridge, but a traffic bridge.

The logical plan would have been to add a vehicle and pedestrian attachment to the railway bridge. This had been proposed in 1890 and again in 1904 when the old bridge was destroyed by spring flooding and had to be replaced. The railway wanted an extra \$60,000 to make the additions. Saskatoon didn't have that kind of money, and with the then-Territorial government also unwilling to commit funds,

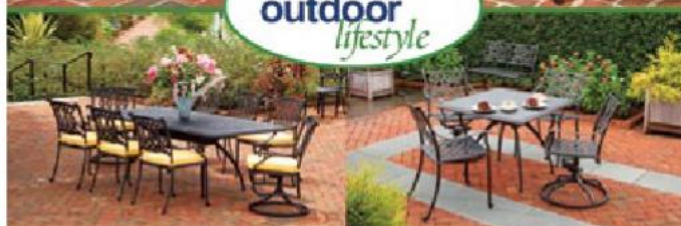
the pedestrian attachment was not built.

By the spring of 1905, Saskatoon consisted of three distinct settlements: Nutana, the Town of Saskatoon, and shiny, new Riversdale. Saskatoon's Town Council suggested that the three communities should unite and become a city. Nutana balked, insisting on a bridge first. You can hardly blame them. Without a traffic bridge, the people of Nutana could never have hoped to share in the life of the city. And without Nutana, 

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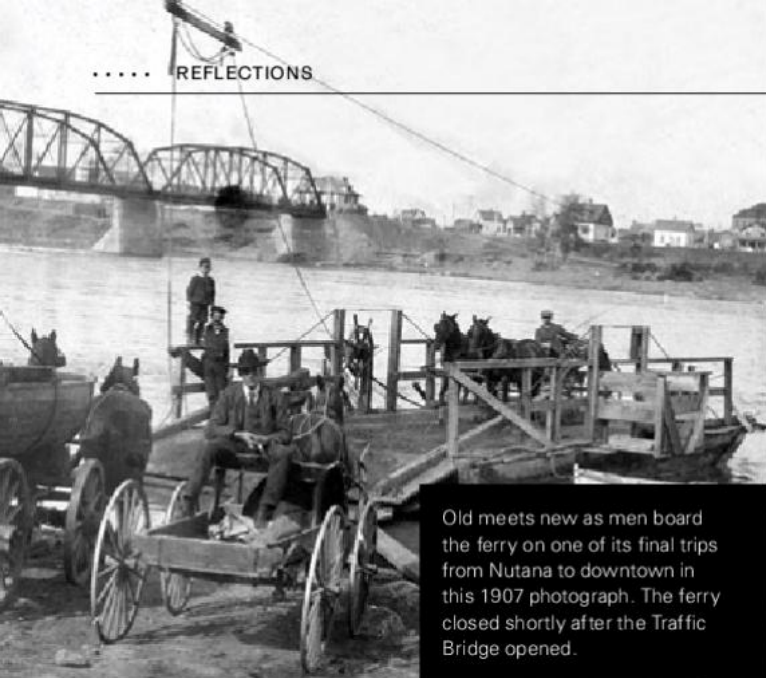
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Old meets new as men board the ferry on one of its final trips from Nutana to downtown in this 1907 photograph. The ferry closed shortly after the Traffic Bridge opened.

Photo LH 426 courtesy of the Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library

there was not going to be a City of Saskatoon.

By December, Nutana ratepayers were still warning "No bridge – no city". But by then the Territorial government had promised a bridge, and estimates for it (the final price tag was \$106,000) were included in the first budget of the new provincial government of Saskatchewan. In May, 1906, Saskatoon's City Charter was made law and a month later the people of Saskatoon were looking at the plans for their newest bridge.

It was to be 975 feet long with a 20 foot road bed. Ironically, the pedestrian footpath was not added until 1909, but in a city with few automobiles, people and vehicles shared their space more easily. John Gunn and Sons of Winnipeg got the

contract for the concrete piers, and the steel trusses were to be built by Canadian Bridge Ltd, of Walkerville, Ontario, shipped to Saskatoon and assembled like a giant Meccano set. Work began that year, and on October 10, 1907, Lt-Gov. Forget officially opened the long-awaited Traffic Bridge.

How important was the Traffic Bridge to the people of Saskatoon? The official opening of the bridge drew a bigger crowd than celebrations for the city's incorporation in 1906.

Although it is Saskatoon's oldest standing bridge, it is also the very last of our bridges to be officially named. Called simply "the Traffic Bridge" both popularly and in official records, it picked up several informal monikers over the

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The half-sunken wreck of the steamship City of Medicine Hat, which crashed against the bridge in June of 1908. Amid fears that the weight of the 130-foot hulk would damage the bridge pier, it was pushed off and allowed to float downstream. One of its anchors was retrieved from the riverbed in 2006 and is now displayed at River Landing.



Photo LH 1834 courtesy of the Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library

years. "Victoria Bridge" is probably the most common, but also the Iron Bridge, the Steel Bridge, the 19th Street Bridge, the Third Avenue Bridge and even the Black Bridge. But its original, traditional, and most accurate name is the Traffic Bridge, and so it was named by City Council in 2007.

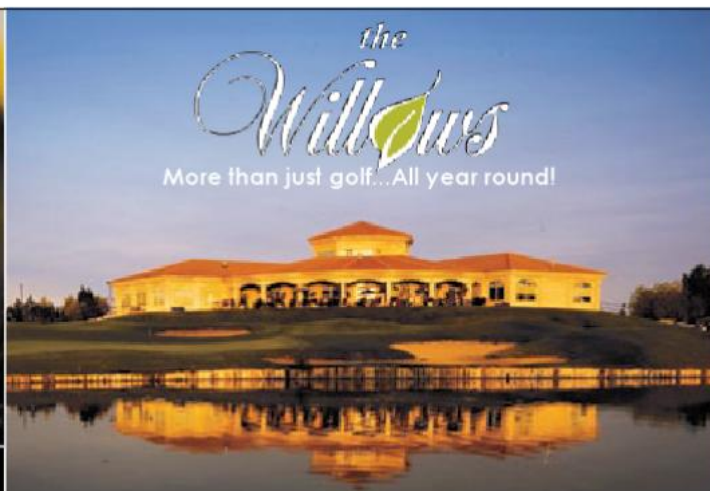
The Traffic Bridge has seen a lot of water flow under it and a lot of traffic over it. Streetcars crossed it from 1913 until the Broadway Bridge was built in the 1930s. The tracks turned sharply at the south end to go up the relatively gentle grade of the Long Hill, which led to a couple of accidents including one very spectacular one

in 1922 when a streetcar derailed coming down the hill and went over the river bank, flipping end-over-end before landing on the frozen river below. Miraculously, no one was killed. One of the city's earliest traffic fatalities occurred on the bridge in 1916, when a young boy walking behind a hay wagon darted out into the oncoming

lane and was struck by a taxi. In 1908, the steamship City of Medicine Hat piled into one of the bridge piers and sank. The spectacle was attended by half the city's population, and even managed to include a cattle stampede. No one was hurt in the accident or ensuing excitement, but it was the last gasp for commercial traffic on the



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The bridges of Saskatoon by year of completion:

- 1907** – Traffic Bridge
- 1908** – Canadian National Railway Bridge (originally the Grand Trunk Pacific)
- 1908** – Canadian Pacific Railway Bridge
- 1916** – University Bridge
- 1932** – Broadway Bridge
- 1966** – Idylwyld Freeway Bridge (now the Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge)
- 1983** – Circle Drive Bridge
- 2012** – Circle Drive South Bridge (under construction)

the South Saskatchewan, a river as unsuited to steamship navigation as there ever was. In 2006, divers uncovered what is believed to be the Medicine Hat's anchor just downstream of the Traffic Bridge.

The area around the Traffic Bridge has changed dramatically since 1907. The south end of the bridge was raised eight feet when the Long and Short Hill approaches were re-built in 1961. In the mid-1960s, the area that is now Rotary Park was filled in, including the site of the Medicine Hat mishap. Recent work on River Landing, including The Founders statue, has greatly altered the north bank as well.

Currently, Saskatoon's oldest bridge is in very poor shape. While the piers seem sound, the steel is badly

corroded, so much so that it has been deemed unsafe even for foot traffic. It was closed for repairs in 2005-2006, then permanently closed in 2010. After significant public consultations, the City of Saskatoon has decided to tear it down and replace it with a new bridge built in a similar style. Repair and restoration of the original was one of the options explored, but while the price and life span of the restored structure would have been the same as building a new one, the annual maintenance costs would have been much higher. The new bridge will also have wider lanes, which will be nice. But after 105 years, the Traffic Bridge will never feel the wheels of another vehicle. It is scheduled to be demolished and the steel sold for scrap. 🏗️

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BACKYARD WATERFALLS





Chris Morin



Jessica Storozuk



There is something enchanting about having your very own small waterfall in your backyard. Being able to relax to the trickling sounds of meandering water from within the city is a balance between living in an urban space, while retaining a sense of being away from the bustle.

Myrosław Kowal and his wife used to live on an acreage where their backyard consisted of an endless sprawl of prairies and a canvas for their landscaping ideas. Despite relocating to Saskatoon, Kowal and his wife haven't sacrificed their vision for a water feature in their own yard.

And despite the limitations of space within the city, Kowal believes that building your own backyard waterfall is achievable if you have a sensible plan and a timeline. 



1. Inspiration

Kowal cites his wife as the inspiration for the landscape project. He says that she provided the initial idea and then put it to paper, which gave him the basis for their project. Kowal says committing to an initial design is important since it gives you an idea of the materials and tools you will need, in addition to a rough budget.

"We are from Saskatchewan so we have to remember about things like freezing," said Kowal. "We had to build our waterfall with the idea that it needs to last."

2. Materials

Kowal says that this project can be cost-effective if you are creative with the materials you use.

"You need a material for the water to run down and unfortunately a lot of these materials are expensive," said Kowal. "So we decided to make it ourselves. A friend of mine works with Plexiglas so we ended up going that route." 



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Myrosław Kowal enjoying his backyard waterfall with good company.



A successful water wall needs to be strong, and braced with wood and cement. But Kowal says that you can save money by shortening the area of your waterfall. He also added planters to the side of his wall for extra stability and as attractive décor.

For the water pump, which is instrumental for the waterfall itself, Kowal suggests using a simple septic pump. He says septic pumps can be relatively inexpensive and are easy to use.

"Check out the different supplies that are available," said Kowal. "Any time you are dealing with water in the outdoors you need an all-weather material. We used some plywood where we could, which also saves money."

3. Budget

Despite providing a striking visual feature, Kowal believes that a waterfall can also be installed for a relatively low cost.

"You can do this on a reasonable budget. A good water feature can be made for around \$5,000. We did invest more money into ours because it is made to last a lifetime. It will be at least ten years before we have to put any maintenance into it."

4. Timeline

Kowal says that a project like this can be done within two weekends.

"Take your time and build it strong," advises Kowal. "You have your drying time when you are working with cement and your stone, but a lot of the plumbing can be done in the meantime and attached afterwards. During the week we built the boxes and planned the décor."

Kowal also says to be mindful of the time of year you start your project. He says that he and his wife began in the fall when there were a few rainy days.

"Our particular project took over two weeks, but normally it would take two weeks for someone who knows how to run a drill, a drop saw and a level. All you need is a basic knowledge of tools." 



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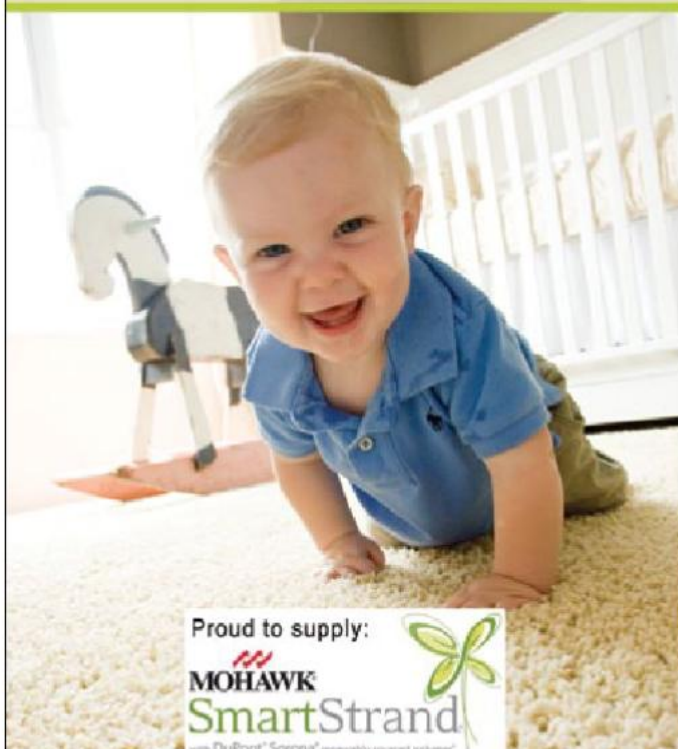
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Downsizing

 Craig Silliphant



There's no denying that we in the Western world have grown accustomed to accumulating "stuff." One statistic says that the average North American household has around 10,000 items inside, compared to only a few hundred in other households around the world. In a highly commercialized culture, we are trained from childhood to believe that we need this stuff; that it somehow makes us better. However, as our aging society comes to fruition with the baby boomers starting to

retire, the trend of downsizing is more popular than ever.

Some of today's downsizers are often heading towards retirement and thinking of buying a condo now that the nest is empty; but several of today's downsizers also fit into other categories. Some are older folks that have to move to assisted living because of financial or physical necessity. There is also a recent trend among younger people who strive to live smaller so that they can avoid being a burden

on the environment, or just to afford a property of their own. Some people even live small to keep a better handle on their money for taking trips or enjoying a higher standard of living.

Jordan Barry and Megan Hnatiw are partners in life and in work, both being realtors with Realty Executives. They have a lot of smart advice to share on downsizing. They put their money where their mouths are – Barry and Hnatiw live together in a 350 square foot bachelor suite condo.

Their couch, bedroom, office, kitchen, and living room are all the same space.

"People look at us like we're crazy for living in 350 square feet," chuckles Barry. "We make a lot of sacrifices to own property. There are a lot of people out there who think that owning property is unrealistic. It absolutely is possible. You don't need to live in a 1,200 square foot condo and have a mortgage payment of \$1,800. It is possible to have a mortgage payment of \$350, or even less."

"We're quite young," adds Megan (they're both 23), "so we still have a bunch of firsts coming. We got our first house young. This isn't our living situation forever. However, once you live in a smaller space, you realize you can do so much with so little. I don't imagine Jordan and I will ever live in a huge space. We'll live in what's good for us."

Sure, you'll need a couch and some dishes, but rather than having a list of 'must-haves' for any given home, Hnatiw says that each person really has to have a conversation with themselves about how they want to live. They need to ask themselves: what things do I need to survive; as well as, what things do I need in order to live comfortably? It's all about ordered sacrifice – sacrifice you can control.

"When you're moving into somewhere small," says Hnatiw, "and making those sacrifices, you need to keep whatever luxuries you have that allow you to live a comfortable lifestyle for you. You have to decide what's important to you." 



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"One of the first things we say when we list a house," says Barry, "is you need to declutter – you need to purge."

"We have to make a conscious effort to edit our things," adds Hnatiw. "If we bring something in, we have to take something out. [People hang onto stuff] because they think it might not be useful now, but maybe in six months. We don't have the space to keep things for six months, so we're constantly editing our things. [We get rid of] things we don't use, even if they're great things."

Editing or purging requires interrupting that thought process that is so prevalent in the Western world. We're always chasing the dragon of inhabiting a bigger space, and often you end up with a bigger mortgage payment just because you happen to own more books or other junk. A great piece of advice from Barry and Hnatiw though, is if you need more storage than your new space will provide, rent a storage unit.

"Because we don't have a basement or a garage," says Hnatiw, "we have a storage unit where we keep off-season tires, hockey equipment, Christmas decorations, that sort of thing. If you're giving up a basement or garage, a storage unit is a great way to have space for things you don't have room for."



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Of course, you may not be a young person saving money, or even an empty nester that wants to do away with prattling around your giant home and having to shovel a driveway. Downsizing can often be a necessary transition in life.

"Downsizing for people who are moving into the retirement era is one of the biggest challenges they face," says Elim Lodge Administrator Greg Foley. "It often keeps them from moving into a new place from their own home because the task of downsizing seems so monumental. They have accumulated possessions through their adult lifetime and their house is jammed full."

Moving beyond the retirement era and into the golden years can often also mean a downsizing effort, as one moves into a facility like Elim, which has both

independent living as well as assisted living with prepared meals and light housekeeping. Foley meets many new Elim residents around the time they are downsizing, or just after, and he sees the items that people bring to Elim.

"When people do downsize, they usually bring the essentials that, you could say, fit into a two bedroom apartment," he says. "Bedroom furniture, a desk, a chair, computer. They will often dispense with their living room furniture and buy something new. They'll bring dishes, china and kitchen stuff. They often upgrade when they move, to things like buying a large flat screen TV and getting rid of their old one. The transition is a new stage of life and they often want some new things to go with it." 

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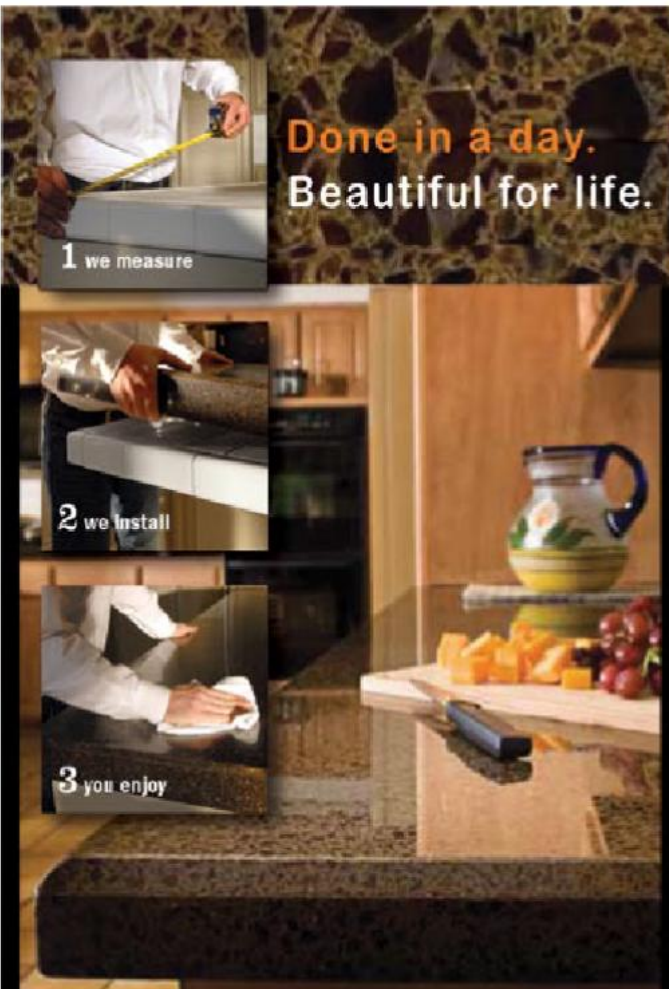
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In addition to purging or editing, Foley also has another stellar piece of advice that is really just common sense, but a common sense that many of us don't think about until we're already behind the 8-ball: It's important to plan ahead.

"The smartest thing that people moving towards retirement can do," explains Foley, "is plan three to five years ahead, minimum. People often don't plan ahead and then if a sudden turn in health hits them, it puts enormous pressure on them. They need to downsize while they are still able. Plan ahead by looking into the kind of accommodation you want when you sell your home.

Ultimately, no matter where you are in life, downsizing can be a great thing, but there's no getting around the fact that

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you have to make sacrifices. However, that sacrifice of often unnecessary 'things' opens up other opportunities in your life, which is important to remember.

"Keep in mind your end goal or why you're sacrificing," says Hnativ. "There are some days I'd kill for a bedroom or a door, but having less stuff and

paying less allows us to travel and have a higher standard of living. If you can keep that in focus, and you think that it's worth it, then things become less important." **H**

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Reorganizing a Small Bathroom



Chris
Morin



Pete Lawrence
Photography



Most people generally don't think of the bathroom as the focal point of their home. Even though it provides a very necessary function, it can be one of the rooms that you spend the least amount of time in. And all too often, when it comes to renovations, many people will often overlook the bathroom – it's a smaller space that requires a fairly robust budget to be refurbished properly.

But for interior design consultant Happy Grove it is all about capturing a balance. Within a home there are the areas that you cook, live and entertain in – and then there are the spaces that provide a functional aspect.

In this case, the rationale for renovating the bathroom, which is a relatively small space, was to transform it from a three-piece bathroom into a four-piece. But for the owners of the home it was just as important to achieve a stylistic symmetry as well as continuity with all of the rooms.

"For this project it was the love of the original style of architecture of the house," says Grove. "What was there was very old and completely unusable – it was a very basic bathroom and not really suited to the style of the house."

"The new spaces are lovely, with oak floors and lovely doors and window trims. This bathroom was basic and uninspired. You would walk through the house and then if you saw this room you would realize how it didn't fit."

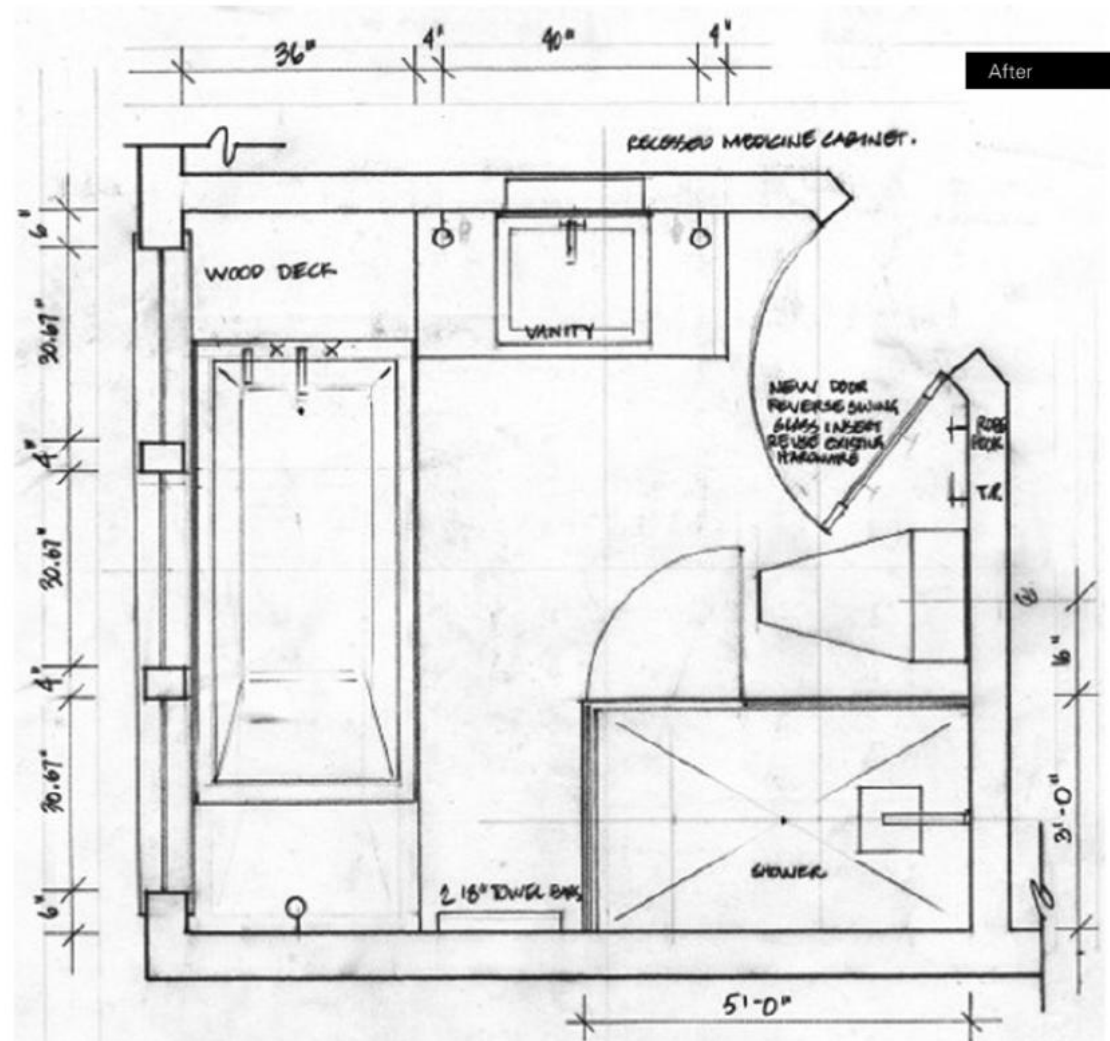
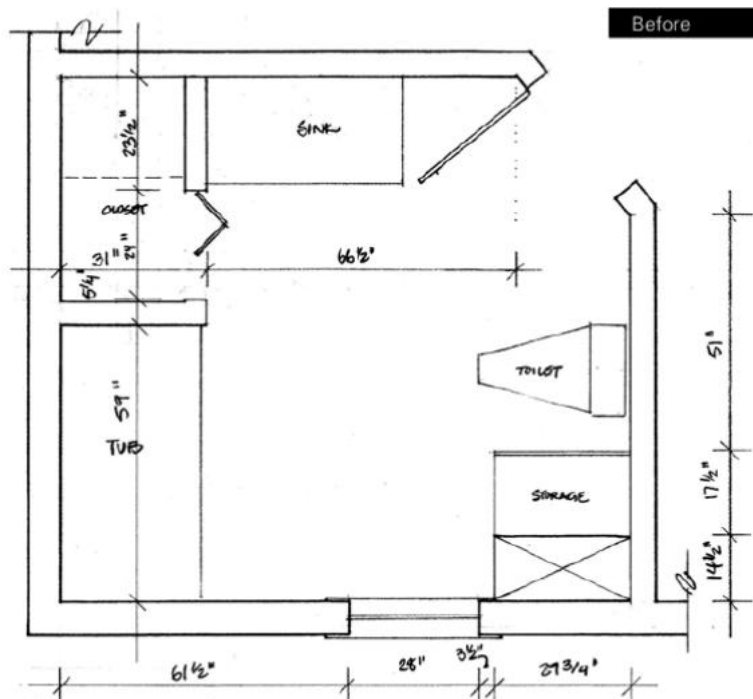
While the original bathroom was in dire need of refurbishing, Grove says that the shape of the room posed a problem for the owners of the home. The bathtub

had originally been placed underneath a sloped roof.

"I don't think anyone taller than five-foot-four could have showered in there the way the roof sloped," said Grove.

"We are always looking at what our clients need out of their spaces," he continues. "In this case it was a separate shower and bathtub. This room was a really great success. We didn't have to add any area and we still managed to open up the entire space."

Grove cites three main concepts – transparency, reflectiveness and scale – when it comes to successfully tackling bathroom renovations for small spaces. **HP**





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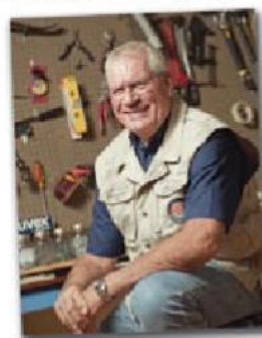
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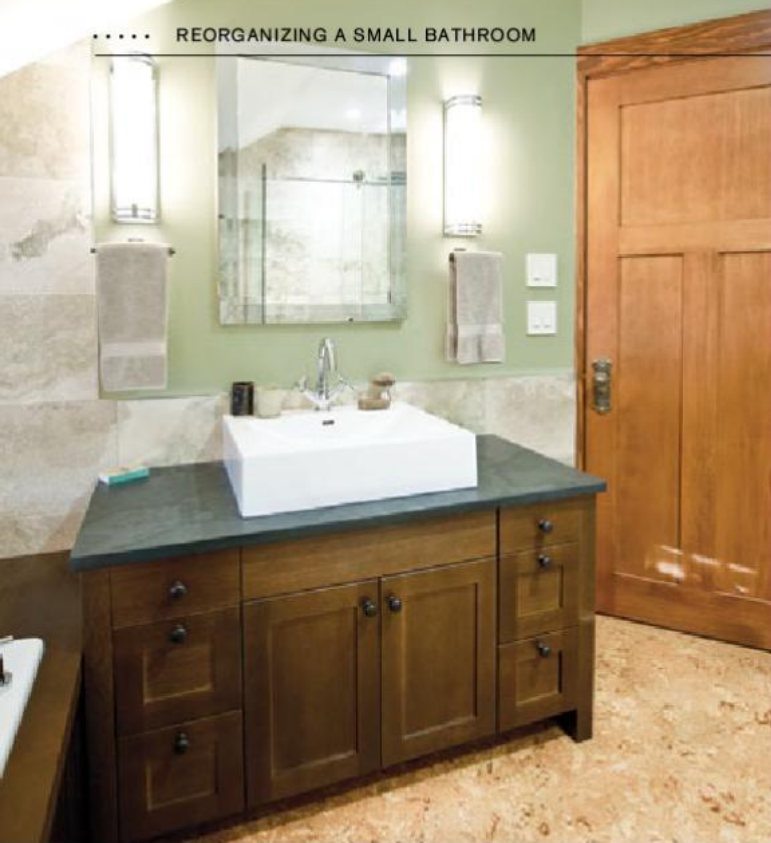
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In terms of transparency, Grove envisioned a shower that gave the illusion of space despite being a new addition to the room.

"It comes down to how the room is planned and laid out. With small spaces you don't want to have big intrusions. The shower takes up a fair amount of space but it does have two glass walls and it kind of helps it disappear. The glass is a successful way of enclosing the space without making the rest of the room seem much smaller. With the shower glass, if you can see the perimeter wall you will have the perception the room is that big," advises Grove.

The shower gives the room a much-needed taste of modernity, and is immediately

inviting with bold, striking fixtures. Furthermore, despite taking up a fair amount of space, the glass enclosure gives off a sense of sparseness that makes the room feel open.

"For scale, keep things low and close to the wall," advises Grove. In this case, the new vanity was designed to provide storage. But Grove cites the above-counter sink as a way of adding height without giving off a sense of intrusion. A large mirror is a must for any bathroom, but more importantly provides a sense of additional space.

"Lighting is also important. If you are in a bright space you won't feel claustrophobic," adds Grove. **IF**



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Although his clients had a vision for a room that balanced the function of a bathroom without being cluttered, Grove admits there were some challenges with keeping that functionality, especially given a very limited amount of space to work with.

"We sacrificed a bit of storage space," admits Grove. "But we made a linen closet in the hallway so there is more storage now than before. You are always looking for every opportunity to include storage. We had a tub deck and we were able to put a drawer in it, which is great for towel storage.

"Don't be challenged by a small space," he continues. "You can get a lot out of any area if you are creative. Part of it is having realistic needs. You can't make a bathroom into a ballroom.

"There is no reason to be wary of renovating a small space. It's an opportunity to look at structure and organization of the space. And one of the good things about renovating a small space is that you can spend a little

more money on materials since you don't have as much surface space to cover."

The renovated bathroom features beautiful cork flooring, which expresses a rustic character and perfectly complements the details in the room – the windows are lined with rift-cut oak and the walls are frescoed with travertine tiles.

Grove advises his clients to have a clear vision in terms of their needs with renovating a small space. But he maintains that the end product is equally as important as the ideas that make a space work.

"I've been delighted to work with Equinox Home Innovations, a great contractor who was able to build everything perfectly," said Grove. "You can have great ideas but it is so important that you have someone involved in the project that can build it.

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The **PINK** **HOUSE**

 Jeff O'Brien  Jessica Storozuk



Joseph Wawaruk



Jason Campbell (left) and Roger Grona (right)



Back in the 1980s, John Cougar Mellencamp sang about them. Alberta has had them for a couple of years. Now Saskatoon is getting one. We're talking about Pink Houses, and there's one going up in Stonebridge. It's our first Pink House – but if the people building it have their way, it won't be our last.

The house is being built by Campbell Homes and is made entirely of pink-coated lumber, complete with pink framing, pink I-joists and pink sheathing. It is being built partly as a fundraiser for the Breast Health Centre at City Hospital, and until the drywall goes on and the siding goes up, it's pink. Really, really, pink.

Eighteen local companies have donated time and materials toward the house. When it's complete, it will be sold, and the value of the donations will be given to the Health Centre. Organizers hope to reach \$50,000 by the time it's finished this spring. As of January, they were well on their way.

Next year, they want to do it again.

The lumber is supplied by Calgary-based PinkWood Ltd. The pink colour is from a coating that makes the wood more water resistant and protects against mould and fungus. More importantly, it's a fire-retardant. According to PinkWood's Blair Nutting, the coating swells when heated, creating a barrier that insulates the wood, making it take longer to heat it to the point of ignition, therefore decreasing the rate at which fire spreads. In a house fire, that extra time could mean the difference between life and death. Tests in Saskatoon, for example, showed that treated I-joists (the beams that support the floors) took twice as long to burn through as untreated ones when exposed to open flame.

The tie-in with breast health is obvious: pink is the colour of breast cancer awareness campaigns. One of the first donors to get on board was Saskatoon's Flo-Essence Plumbing, Hearth and Décor Ltd., which is supplying all the plumbing material and fixtures, including the furnace and a three-sided fireplace, with a total retail value of around \$28,000.



PinkWood's treated wood has significant fire retardant abilities.

Robyn Henke, one of the partners in Flo-Essence, says their involvement was, "a no brainer." She explains: "Most of us have been touched by breast cancer in one way or another. As well, we're a Saskatoon company and this gives us a chance to support our community in a meaningful way." In the case of Flo-Essence, one of the partners, Glenn Wig, is also chair of the Saskatoon Hospital Foundation, so getting involved in the Pink House project was a pretty

easy fit for the company. Will they do it again next year? "You bet!" **H**

Saskatoon's Pink House can be seen at 744 Rempel Cove, where, at the time of this writing, it continues to be astoundingly pink.

Visit www.saskatoon-home.ca/extras.htm to view a list of those who contributed to this project.

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Organizing Your Kitchen



Jordan Jackson



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The hardest thing about being in the kitchen is trying to keep handy everything you need to prepare good food, have working space for family time at the kitchen table, and sorting out the other clutter of daily life. Often not enough attention has been given beforehand to how you might use that space, so getting at the things you need may be more of a hassle than is necessary. But no matter the trouble you might have, there is either a new product out there that invites a better way of doing things, or someone in the kitchen-building industry who knows how to redesign your kitchen to work for you.

Renovation Ideas

The demands of life today require different ways of using our space. As arguably the central room of most homes, the kitchen

must follow suit, and so it is frequently required to be more than a place for families to cook and eat. "In today's lives, people have so much miscellaneous paper," says Lucienne Van Langen, interior design technician with Rêdl Kitchens, "Adding a file drawer into the kitchen is often a really great way to organize a desk-type area, even if there isn't a desk present, because that way all of today's mail or to-dos can go into a file, and it keeps it very neat and easy to access."

Families must now also keep track of all their portable electronic devices that weren't there in the past. Consider integrating a dedicated charging station in the kitchen – it makes it possible to have enough outlets to charge everyone's cell phones at

once while also keeping the mass of cables and adapters clean and out of sight. Having a neat, dedicated location also ensures everyone grabs their cell phones before leaving for work and school.

But even with the demands of life today and the new gadgets we have, some aspects of the kitchen remain the same. Van Langen suggests that homeowners consider utilizing shallow pantries instead of deep ones. "Shallow pantries, I find, are actually much more functional than deep pantries with roll-out shelves," says Van Langen, "because [with] the shallow ones you can do all-adjustable shelves inside and you never lose anything at the back." Furthermore, as the name implies, all-adjustable shelves allow the homeowner the flexibility to configure

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TUPPERWARE – TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Perhaps you're mostly satisfied with the way your kitchen works, but the way you store your food or other possessions could use improvement. If so, there are alternatives available to your existing way of doing things in the kitchen. Janice Seebach, Legacy Executive Director with Tupperware, provides a few examples of simple changes you can make through Tupperware products to provide a wealth of new functionality.

Tupperware promotes organization through modular containers of varying shapes and sizes that stack on each other neatly in order to sort existing ingredients, foodstuffs and other items. Homeowners can have a Tupperware representative

come and measure the cupboards and other spaces in one's kitchen in order to determine what particular combination of modular containers would best suit the homeowner's needs and fit well into the existing space.

Seebach notes that an advantage of the modular containers is that they are not fixed to one home. "[When I had moved] I did take my existing modulars from the pantry that I started with and I moved them into my new pantry. All I had to do was adjust some of the shelves and they fit right in." It therefore takes minimal or no modification of your existing kitchen space to integrate Tupperware products into your lifestyle.

shelves to the height of the items they keep, a feature that is lost on standard pull-out shelves. Keep in mind, though, as Van Langen says, "The shallow depth is really important: 12 to 15 inches – about the depth of a cereal box – so you can't lose anything."

Of course, some homeowners may not be comfortable with changing the structure of their kitchen. For such clients who also have older homes, Van Langen suggests adding roll-out shelves and drawers. "Old kitchens tended to have fixed shelves that weren't adjustable, and nothing was accessible really. You had to keep searching – you'd have to pull out everything at the front in order to reach the back. Adding drawers and pull-outs that bring things out to you is a definite must in an older kitchen."

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New Products

According to Van Langen, most of the current kitchen hardware has come out roughly in the last six years. Therefore, there are most likely a number of new products out there that homeowners might find useful in their kitchens. If you are interested in taking a look, but have no idea where to start, Van Langen has a few favourites to suggest.

The LeMans pull-out and swing corner systems are helpful for maximizing

space in the corners of your kitchen. The LeMans consists of a pair of shelves, one on top of the other, that pull and swing out of your corner cupboard so that all of your plates or pots and pans rest right in front of you – a far greater convenience than having to reach into the corner and dig around. Van Langen suggests this product in particular to those who are still using a Lazy Susan in their corners. By comparison, the LeMans is sturdier – reducing the



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likelihood of cookware falling over – and able to take much more weight.

The touch-activated systems for cupboards and drawers are another possibility that will meet the demands of almost any kitchen design. Says Van Langen, "They don't require a handle. You just nudge them and they open for you." This feature is particularly handy for something like a cupboard to the garbage can, which can then be accessed without making a mess by having to grab an inconvenient handle to gain access to it. In addition, the touch-activated systems are helpful for those who suffer from arthritis or limited movement in the hands, as the right kind of touch-activated system will do both the opening and closing for you.

For those of you who need easy access to spices and oils while cooking, there are better options than having them sit on top of your stove, buried in an inconvenient cupboard, or, as was the case in this writer's home, sitting on the edge of a cupboard shelf for easy access, but also easy to knock to the floor. Van Langen suggests homeowners consider a full-tall pantry pull-out at the side of the stove, which also features all-adjustable shelves to accommodate bottles of differing heights.

Lastly, there are now on the market more sophisticated products for homeowners who find it difficult to reach the upper cabinets of the kitchen. Among the most useful are hydraulically- or spring-operated pull-down upper cabinets, which allow a cabinet's contents to be pulled down to countertop level. This is convenient for those who use wheelchairs, those who suffer from some sort of shoulder injury, or those simply tired of going for a footstool.

Therefore, if you're finding your kitchen needs better accessibility, more options for today's busy lives, or ways to more efficiently organize everything you have, there are new products and services available to meet those demands. As with most other aspects of your home, figure out what you want out of your kitchen, and the details will doubtlessly fall into place. 



Robert Christie of Art Placement says you can avoid a cluttered look by remembering to give each piece of art a little breathing room.

Photo by Karin Melberg Schwier

The, dare we say, well-hung wall

A cave man or woman pounded a stick into a crack in a rock wall to hang a prized sabre-toothed tiger pelt – and a home décor tradition was born. Since then, people have been adorning the interiors of living and working spaces to reflect a sense of unique personality and function. If you're a Tim the Tool Man (or Woman) who loves to pound on the plaster, then yay! There's a veritable glut of gadgets and gizmos to be had.

If you're of the 'eyeball it until it looks straight' school, you've probably grown up using the 'wall knock-listen for telltale hollow-hollow-hollow-thud' stud finding

method. Oftentimes, this method works fine. Other times, not so much. If a nail made it in properly, chances are that you kept using the same one even when you changed the artwork just so you didn't have to put in another nail.

Oh boy, toys!

The Age of Gadgets. A little magnetic device could hone in on the nails driven into the telltale stud. The more sophisticated stud finder, a device that detects changes in wall density, does the work for you and saves you from swollen knuckles. Today, gizmos and various

picture-hanging technologies abound. A "picture hanging" Internet search nets dozens. All promise to take the muss and fuss out of the job. Some do. Some don't.

A popular techy tool is the laser level, a very handy device that emits a beam of light from a diode. Did you know that laser stands for Light Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation? Me neither. It's handy anywhere you want a beam of light to act as a chalk line...without the messy and imprecise chalk line.

Whatever new toy you want to try out for wall décor, mirrors or shelves, check

out consumer feedback sites and read the thumbs up or thumbs down reviews. Ask artists and gallery owners before you buy.

Common sense basics

Stabilize the work with wire hung on two nails, not just one. On two nails or hooks, picture shift is less likely. Make sure the hardware you're using corresponds with the weight of the object to be hung. Know what wall material you're mounting the piece on; wall repair takes up project time. 



1.



2.



3.

Photos courtesy of Canadian Tire

1. This Black & Decker Sure Grip laser level holds a mark for up to two hours, has a visual colour level indicator, audio signal and an attachment to the laser line to left or right.
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Artist Robert Christie owns Art Placement in Saskatoon. After years of experience, he is king of the eyeball technique. Even he still relies on his math skills to calculate distances between pieces and the space he affords each one. A recent project involved the re-hanging of the entire Nutana Collegiate Memorial Gallery, which includes massive pieces.

Whatever the size and weight of the piece, Christie says, "You want stability and safety. I prefer to bypass wire altogether and use hinge hangers that hang directly on the hooks." As for wires hung on a single hook – someone dusts or slams a door and every picture swings like a pendulum.

Other considerations include the placement of art near windows. Sunlight can damage a work even though UV protection glass is used. Glass can distort. Hanging art at eyelevel allows the viewer to appreciate the work without getting a stiff neck, but it mustn't be too low near a chair, for instance, where someone could lean back and bump it.

Some artists and galleries offer professional delivery and installation. Though it can be like stopping to ask for directions, sometimes the secret to a well-endowed wall is to concede defeat to an expert. Let someone who knows what they're doing give you a hand. 

KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER



THE THRILL OF THE HUNT: ART

Karin Melberg Schwier

Find what moves you, invest in what inspires you

Finding the right art can be complex. There's nothing wrong with picking up prints and pieces at the big boxes, but if you're longing for a more in-depth art experience, suggestions from Saskatoon artists and gallery owners might help guide you. The city is riddled with shops, galleries, auctions and exhibitions that showcase the known and lesser-known, ready to offer you a range of media, size, genre and price range.

The good, the bad, the ugly

Artist Robert Christie, owner of Art Placement, says there is such a thing as good, bad and downright awful art. But there's a distinction to be made in how art is judged to be good or bad.

"Acknowledgeable viewer can look at a piece of art and understand that it is good, but they may just not like it," he says. "They still can acknowledge the quality of the work, appreciate and understand the qualities and contributions that the genre and artist bring if it's done well." Christie uses the concert pianist analogy; you don't sit down and start playing the piano. "You can make noise, but you come to understand there are notes that you must understand and assemble. Even someone who becomes competent isn't necessarily a good pianist if they have no feeling or substance," Christie explains. "You have to have an ear as an artist, and as an audience, you need to have a practiced ear to determine the distinction between good, bad, and indifferent. Over time, you get better." 



Wanda Underhill, founder and owner, Rouge Gallery, agrees with Christie when he says the main point is whether the viewer enjoys it, whether it's an original work or a "decorative piece."

"I think everybody classifies art differently," Underhill says. "For me, original art is about whether the painting can draw me in and capture my interest. For others, they buy art on the basis of their wall colour and how it will incorporate with existing decor. Neither of these methods is wrong."

She adds that novice buyers can be comforted that there are "no dumb questions."

"I appreciate it when clients ask questions about the art, the artist or how to buy art. It gives me a sense of where they're at in terms of their art

purchase history. We have many new clients who come in and want to buy their first original painting," Underhill explains. "Our job is to help them with their decision. Think of us as educators."

Debunking the art snob myth

"I know there is a preconceived notion that art galleries are intimidating," says Underhill, "but as a whole, the members of the Saskatchewan Professional Art Gallery Association (SPAGA) are trying to break down those barriers." She encourages people to view gallery websites first to make note of sizes, prices and biographies of artists' work. "It's a good starting off point for new art buyers." 



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THE ART OF RENTING ART

Painter Gloria Stefanson works from her Allan home studio after years as an art director and production designer. Struck by her difficulty to find art to rent for TV and film productions, she began to think about offering her own pieces. People who appreciate original artworks and a periodic change of scenery might find renting can be the way to go.

"I wanted to offer people the option," she says simply. "I also realized that some people need to change their surroundings more often. A piece of art may not work with a change in wall colour or furniture placement or they just want something fresh." Renting is affordable and potential buyers can decide if it works before the final purchase.

Stefanson rents (at a percentage of retail price) to residences, businesses, show homes, television/movie sets, and staged properties for sale. She encourages people to ask admired artists if they'd rent their work. Remember to investigate insurance coverage.



Robert Christie says questions and no-pressure comfort are good. "We like to have a conversation about various considerations. Size, budget, genre, perhaps an artist whose work they like, all will better equip a gallery person to guide them," Christie says. "I've been to galleries where people work on commission so you've got someone on your heel right away. If someone is unsure of a piece or they don't like it, I don't want them to have it!" If a current show is not of a style the person is looking for, Christie is happy to bring out other works stored at the gallery. "We're more than happy to show them other pieces. We often have several

works by individual artists, so we have a range of different sizes, media and prices."

A 'passion investment'

Art isn't something you flip, like a house, as in "buy it, fix it up and sell at a profit." That's why a local investment advisor squirmed a little when asked about "art investment." Art tends to fall into the realm of wine, precious stones and racehorses. To invest in it to make money may work for some but, the advisor said, "You would be investing in a very illiquid market that has shaky resale value. I



Photo by Karin Melberg Schwier

Robert Christie retrieves a Rebecca Perehudoff work from storage. You don't have to hang every piece of art you own at the same time. Consider revolving and refreshing what you have.

WALL WELLNESS

Interior surfaces of homes and workplaces can have an impact on what happens within those spaces. Cluttered chaos or serene simplicity? Energetic or gloomy? An artist, a gallery owner, and an interior decorator offer a few sage words of advice on creating the kind of wall décor that won't drive you mad.

Gloria Stefanson, painter: "The mood of a room or space is very important and many things can contribute to either a positive or a negative feeling. People get very attached to their stuff, then

can't seem to get the feel they want. Declutter! Yes, you can make mistakes when purchasing art if you're looking to create a beautiful magazine-perfect space (she advocates renting; see sidebar, page 72). On the other hand, it's your home. If it's comfortable for you, who is to say it isn't right? If you like it, buy it. Simple."

Rouge Gallery owner Wanda Underhill suggests clients take a piece of art home for a test drive. "It looks completely different on our walls than it will on yours. It's important to make sure that whichever painting you end up choosing is perfect for your space and style."

Chantelle Butterfield, interior decorator: "If you don't love it, don't hang it. Art is one of your most personal belongings," she insists. "Nothing makes you think of a place, a dream or somebody special faster than looking at a picture. A picture is worth a thousand words! If you don't like what you're hearing, sell it or pass it on. There are people out there to whom it may speak eloquently."

Or store it away if you have the room. Rotate it. Like music, dance or theatre, you can appreciate different forms at different life stages. Sometimes art has a way of growing on you. You just want to avoid it growing on you in a bad way.



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would view it like a diamond; very little resale value, but a nice heirloom for the family.”

Though Robert Christie's Art Placement gallery is in the business of selling artworks, he agrees. “Investing in art, that's a darn hard row to hoe. Most art is not an investment, rather something to enjoy and appreciate. If you were investing intentionally, you have to research well. A Warhol will sell in the millions, but there are very few potential buyers. A diamond is a good analogy; buy retail and try to sell it back to the store in a year.”

Underhill believes name recognition and popularity can influence how much artwork will appreciate. She says that although talent and originality are crucial,

what ultimately determines the value of an artist's work is based on the popularity and reputation.

“The more the artist sells, the more reputable his or her name will become and the more valuable your purchase will become. It's like buying a house in Vancouver; it's always a good time to buy as the value is always going to go up,” she says. But as with any purchase, it only works out if you can afford it. “For a new buyer,” she says, “I would say the most important factors in buying original art are what you like and your budget.”

Reluctant to call purchasing art an investment in the monetary sense, Christie agrees good art created by good artists can increase in value. 



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Hesitant to name only two, Christie points to Dorothy Knowles and Bill Perehudoff, two artists who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Art Placement has represented them since the early 1980s.

"Their works have been shown, sold and collected worldwide since the 1950s so there is 60 years of art activity and lots of art and name recognition. They have continually pushed their own development," Christie explains. "You might have purchased a four-foot square painting by Bill in 1965 for \$400 and he would have been happy with that. Now the same picture might be appraised at \$25,000. Having said that, I would never say you should buy a piece because it's a good monetary investment. Buying good art is always

an investment in your personal understanding and expansion, entertainment and appreciation of that object, that artist."

If you've got money to spend, perhaps a wise investment would be as a patron and benefactor – someone who purchases art to advance a favourite artist in the development of work you admire. There are many out there who, while maybe not starving in a garret, would be happy to sell you some of their wares for your walls. With the range of art available in Saskatoon, and a little research on your part, there is undoubtedly something to your liking. 

Thank you to reader Crystal Bueckert for this story suggestion.

ART GALLERIES

Art is a diverse field and there are a plethora of solo artists, galleries and public galleries. We have compiled a short listing of commercial and viewing galleries to get you started on your art search in Saskatoon. We apologize in advance to anyone we may have missed.

COMMERCIAL GALLERIES (WORK ON DISPLAY IS TYPICALLY FOR SALE)

Art Placement	www.artplacement.com	228 3rd Avenue S
Collector's Choice Art Gallery	www.collectorschoice.ca	625D 1st Avenue N
Darrell Bell Gallery	www.darrellbellgallery.com	317 - 220 3rd Avenue S
Delmar Gallery	no website	928D 8th Street E
Esteem for the Home	www.esteemforthehome.ca	106B - 3929 8th Street E
Framing and Art Centre	www.saskatoon.framingartcentre.com	46 - 2105 8th Street E
Pacific Gallery	www.pacificgallery.ca	702 14th Street E
Rouge Gallery	www.rougegallery.ca	200 - 245 3rd Avenue S
Saskatchewan Craft Council	www.saskcraftcouncil.org	813 Broadway Avenue
SCYAP Gallery (in support of youth arts)	www.scyapinc.org	253 3rd Avenue S
The Glen Scrimshaw Gallery	www.glenscrimshaw.com	165 3rd Avenue S
The Stall Gallery	www.thestallgallery.com	105 - 120 Sonnenschein Way

VIEWING GALLERIES (WORK ON DISPLAY IS TYPICALLY NOT FOR SALE)

AKA Gallery	www.akagallery.org	424 20th Street W
Gordon Snelgrove Gallery (student gallery)	www.usask.ca/snelgrove	Room 191 Murray Building - 3 Campus Drive, U of S
Kenderdine Art Gallery and College Art Galleries	www.art.usask.ca	University of Saskatchewan
Mendel Art Gallery	www.mendel.ca	950 Spadina Crescent East
Paved Arts	www.pavedarts.ca	424 20th Street W

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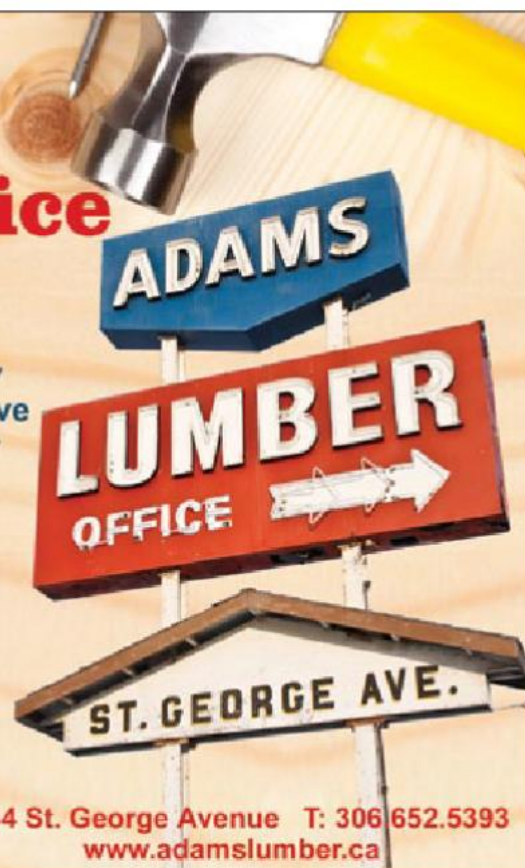
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WHERE TO TAKE YOUR STUFF...



Craig Silliphant



At this time of year, many people make the decision to downsize for condo living, or at least, undertake some spring cleaning to manage the clutter in their household. An empty nester might be able to have their kids come back and sort through all their old toys and belongings, but that only gets rid of so much. You've made the biggest decision – to edit your belongings – but where do you take the stuff you don't want? You can always drive a truckload of junk to the dump, but in many cases, you can sell or donate those things to pad your wallet or benefit your community.

Make a Few Bucks!

Selling some of your possessions will take time and effort; you need to catalogue items and decide how much you think things are worth (a hint: be realistic; things are only worth what someone else will pay for them!). When you're going to the dump or donating, you can usually just drop the items off, but when you're selling them, you'll be required to price the goods, and then monitor your sales. Once you've decided to sell some possessions, you have several options:

1) Garage sales. Buy yourself a roll of masking tape and start tagging things with prices! It's important to remember that though you are making a bit of coin, that's not the reason you're doing it – you're hosting a garage sale to get rid of stuff. So don't think twice about someone haggling with you over a 30-year-old

lamp that you don't need and they're willing to take away.

2) Online. With the rise of the Internet, you can sell things online everywhere from Kijiji to eBay. Again, this can be time-consuming (and it may take some computer skills) as it usually involves creating a page or profile on a website for you or your items. You can sell items piecemeal on sites like these if you have the time to monitor your sales or auction bids, but they are best used for larger or specialty items. Sell your collectables on eBay and big household items like couches on Kijiji. In fact, if decluttering is your focus, you don't even need to charge for that old couch; there's no doubt that some university student on a budget would be glad to take it off your hands, and often just having someone lug it away for you is a victory in and of itself, saving you time and money. The other imperative for online sales is that you need to be very careful, both in your online dealings and in physical dealings. On a site like eBay, you'll be selling to someone outside the community; don't give anyone credit card or personal information (use a PayPal account), and if a sale seems too good to be true, it usually is. With a more community-focused site like Kijiji, you may have to meet with the person you're selling to, so you should take any security precautions that you see fit; for example, if you're an older person who lives alone, **IPF**



have someone there with you when the caller comes to pick up the item.

- 3) Consignment. There are a few consignment stores in Saskatoon, mostly for clothing, whether they are for women's dresses or those clothes your kids have outgrown. Some children's consignment stores even specialize in buying and selling designerwear, so you can buy or sell a gently used item of brand named clothing. There are also pawn shops, antique stores, and book or record stores where you can sell your things, giving a portion of the sale to the retailer.

**Give it Away,
Give it Away,
Give it
Away Now!**

The alternative to selling your goods is usually faster and involves less effort, but can benefit the environment and your community

immeasurably. Donating your goods can get your stuff off your hands, while providing money or goods to organizations or less fortunate families. You still have to do some organization, as certain places accept only certain items, but you won't have to monitor sales. Once the stuff leaves your hands, you're home free to live your new decluttered lifestyle. Here is some advice for knowing where to take what:

- 1) The Saskatchewan Institute on Community Living (SICL) is a charitable, non-profit organization that collects quality used clothing and household items. The proceeds from your donations go to a great cause: helping out people with intellectual disabilities and their families. SICL accepts a myriad of household goods, everything from clothing to toasters, and CDs to bed and bath products. The SICL has bins all over the city, and they can even arrange to pick up some items from your home 

HOLD A SWAP PARTY!

It's always important to make the most of the things we have. You've heard of community swap meets where people can trade and barter their goods and services – but for a good time with the gals (or, ahem, the guys) you can also host your own fashionable swap party! Get rid of those tired ensembles you bury in the back of your closet, while getting some snazzy new outfits back in return.

First, you send out the invitations. The more friends you invite, the more clothing there is to choose from. Set a minimum number of garments so you have a good selection. Make sure guests wash and press the items for display. And let's not forget shoes, accessories, jewellery, purses, and belts!

On the day of the party, inject some fun and style into things. Turn your living room into a chic boutique with a themed party. Set up racks and tables to display your wares and decorate the space in a stylish way. Serve finger foods and designer cocktails. Now you're living in an episode of *Sex and the City*!

Take turns each picking items of clothing until there's nothing left. If there are leftovers, donate them. And voila! You've had an amazing time with friends, while shedding clothes you didn't want. You also got your hands on that skirt you always wanted to raid from your bestie's closet. Everyone wins!

Along with clothing, you can also organize swaps for trading toys, perfumes, tools, books, or baby clothes!

STREET NAMES



CHAN CRESCENT

Chan Crescent is in Silverwood Heights. Ernest "Ernie" Chan (1909-1990) was born in Canton. He arrived in Saskatoon with his parents in 1928. In 1937 Ernie was the first Chinese graduate of the University of Saskatchewan College of Engineering. He instructed at the College for two years and then began a teaching career with the Saskatoon collegiate board and public school division that lasted 35 years, first at the Saskatoon Technical

Collegiate and then at Walter Murray Collegiate. Mr. Chan was a tireless worker in the Chinese community. He was president of the Saskatoon Highland Piping and Dancing Association from 1957 to 1960, the Saskatoon Folk Art Council from 1966 to 1972, and the Rotary Club in 1976-77.

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if necessary. It is also important to note that there are things they cannot take, and you can find the list on the FAQ page of their website (communitylivingpickup.ca). Most of the items are sold at Value Village, and the money all stays in Saskatchewan.

2) The Salvation Army is an organization most of us have heard of, and with good reason: they've been providing things like food and shelter to underprivileged people for over a century (since 1905 in Saskatoon!). They'll accept items like bath towels and books, sometimes to earn money and sometimes for direct donation to families. You can see their donation wish list and what they do with their money at salvationarmysaskatoon.org.

3) The Saskatchewan Waste Electronic Equipment

Program (Sweep) is a non-profit organization that focuses on the collection of this obsolete electronic equipment. Still have a Commodore 64 and three old stereo amps gathering dust in the basement? If you can't give it to a family member or sell it, then you'll need Sweep. Bring your old electronics to any SARCAN depot, where they will take it and recycle it by taking it apart for any useful parts or components. For more information, see sweepit.ca or sarcsarcan.ca/sarcan. 

There are many other organizations who also will accept various goods, such as EGADZ, Hands on Ministries, the Crisis Centre, and Open Door Society – along with numerous church rummage sales. It's always worthwhile to contact your favorite non-profit groups and ask.



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